GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:523
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2003
SCHEMES/PROGRAMMES FOR WELFARE OF FARMERS
A.P. JITHENDER REDDY

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of schemes/programmes for welfare of the farmers could not be taken up in the recent past due to resource crunch;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether huge amount of funds earmarked therefor remained unutilized during 2000-2001;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to earmark and utilize the funds properly?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 523 DUE FOR REPLY ON 28TH APRIL, 2003.

(a)&(b): With the resources available a number of Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes have been initiated and are being implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation for increasing the production and productivity of crops thereby helping farmers to improve their living conditions.

(c): As per information available, an amount of Rs.299 crores approximately was lying unspent with the State Governments during the year 2000-01 under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes implemented by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. This is against Budget Estimate of Rs.1965 crores and R.E. of 1692 crores provided for Plan Schemes during the year 2000-01.

(d)&(e): The main reasons for the unspent balances lying with the States, inter-alia, include administrative delay at the State level in reaching funds to the implementing agencies, inability of many State Governments to provide matching grants, and adverse weather conditions.

In order to ensure expeditious release of funds to the State Governments, a Special Cell has been created in the Office of CCA at Krishi Bhawan for the receipt of sanction order regarding release of central assistance to the State. Monitoring of the implementation of the Schemes is also done regularly by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. Under Macro Management Scheme, funds are released in two instalments. Second instalment is released on the basis of utilisation certificates from the State Governments. In case of delay in submitting the utilisation there is a graded cut in the second instalment and the savings of these States are diverted to high performing States in order to ensure optimal utilisation of fund.